

Joint Select Committee on Public Health Finance: Work Plan Summary

Phase One *Purpose:* To evaluate the current status of public health in Washington and identify appropriate levels of services and outcomes, in order to make informed funding recommendations during phase two.
July - Dec

Tasks: Review the current and historic role of public health, funding sources, service gaps, and potential consequences. (One conference call + 4 meetings.)

Q: To what extent are current funding arrangements adequate to support core public health functions?

Phase Two *Purpose:* To recommend potential sources of future funding for public health services.

Jan - June *Tasks:* Consider and prioritize public health needs. Determine if dedicated and or new funds should be directed to public health. Identify potential funding sources.

Q: If current funding arrangements need improvement, what are appropriate and realistic options?

Fall Work Plan – “JSC on Public Health Finance: Phase 1” – working outline

First meeting

(Sept. 20,
1:30-4:45pm,
Olympia)

- 1) *Public Health 101: What is public health?* (Staff: J. Seib, C. Blake)
- What are the core public health functions?
 - What is the role of federal, state, and local govt. regarding each function?
- 2) *How is public health funded?* (Staff: T. Yowell, A. Hanson)
- How are core public health functions currently paid for in WA, and at what level?
 - How has PH spending changed over the last decade?
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Second meeting

(Oct. 18,
10am-1 pm,
CWU,
Ellensburg)

- 3) *How can the performance of a public health system be measured, and how does Washington perform relative to those measures?* (Staff: J. Seib, C. Blake)
- Services: Public Health Improvement Partnership (PHIP) Standards:
 - What are the PH improvement standards?
 - How well is our public health system performing relative to those standards?
 - How has performance changed between 2002 and 2005?
 - Outcomes:
 - What is the PHIP report card?
 - How is Washington doing on the report card, over time and relative to other states?
 - What other specific measures are there of public health outcomes and trends, at the statewide and local levels?
 - Using services to improve outcomes:
 - How are public health services and outcomes linked?
 - How should services be provided to best improve outcomes?
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Third meeting

(Nov. 10,
10am-1pm,
Vancouver)

- 4) *What are appropriate levels of public health services and outcomes?*
- Funding Comparisons (Staff: T. Yowell, A. Hanson):
 - How does WA spending on PH compare with other states?
 - How does funding compare to comparable states that show better performance on key public health measures?
 - How does spending on public health vary among local health jurisdictions in WA?
 - How does funding compare between jurisdictions that perform better or worse against PHIP standards and other measures?
 - Identifying gaps (Staff: J. Seib, C. Blake):
 - From preceding discussions, which public health outcomes should be improved, and what improvements to services are necessary to support core public health functions?
 - What do leading public health professionals believe are the consequences of maintaining the status-quo health funding in terms of probable health impact and indirect benefits/costs?
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Fourth meeting

(Dec. 13,
10am-1pm,
Olympia)

- 5) *How should the process to prioritize public health services be designed?* (Staff: M. Matteson)
- Setting up a prioritization process:
 - What do leading PH professionals assess to be the highest priority needs?
 - What are the potential benefits/costs of needs?
 - What should the Committee role be with respect to prioritization?
- 6) *How should the committee address Phase II, concerning resolution of the prioritization process and the identification of potential funding sources?* (Staff: M. Matteson, all)
- Planning 2006 workload and schedule
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**Joint Select Committee on
Public Health Financing**

SPRING 2006 WORK PLAN

Monday, April 24

1. Review proposed process & timeline for development of recommendations.
2. Presentation and discussion of how spending alternatives will be defined, costed, and prioritized.
3. Presentation and discussion of public health financing mechanisms.

Thursday, May 25

1. Presentation and discussion of public health community's recommended spending priorities.
2. Presentation and discussion of specific financing options:
 - statewide options
 - local options

Tuesday, June 20

1. Development and adoption of Joint Select Committee's recommended:
 - spending priorities
 - financing mechanisms.

Friday, June 30

1. Joint Select Committee's recommendations issued in Committee report.